

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /083 W
-----016563 081307Z /47

O R 081117Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 948
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
USMISSION USNATO
USINT HAVANA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1746

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, TU, CY
SUBJECT: TURKISH REACTIVATION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA

REF: A) HAVANA 594, B) ANKARA 1709

1. IN MEETING WITH EMBOFF MARCH 7, MFA WESTERN DEPARTMENT
SECTION CHIEF SAID THAT REACTIVATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
BETWEEN TURKEY AND CUBA HAD BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR A LONG
TIME BEFORE THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT MARCH 7. BECAUSE OF BOTH
COUNTRIES' FEELING THAT REACTIVATION OF RELATIONS WOULD BE IN
THEIR INTERESTS, TALKS HAD BEGUN UNDER THE LAST DEMIREL
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GOVERNMENT BUT COULD NOT BE COMPLETED BEFORE THAT GOVERNMENT'S
FALL DECEMBER 31. WHILE TURKEY AND CUBA HAD TECHNICALLY NOT
BROKEN OFF RELATIONS, RELATIONS HAD IN EFFECT BEEN "SUSPENDED"
SINCE 1961. THE TURKISH EMBASSY IN MEXICO (BUT NOT THE TURKISH
AMBASSADOR) HAD BEEN ACCREDITED TO HAVANA, BUT HAD NOT
ACTUALLY HAD ANY CONTACTS WITH THE CUBANS. TALKS ON REACTIVATION
TOOK PLACE IN ALGIERS BECAUSE IT IS A CAPITAL "WITH WHICH BOTH

COUNTRIES HAVE GOOD RELATIONS."

2. THE MFA OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT THE TURKISH UN REPRESENTATIVE AND THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO SOFIA WILL BE ACCREDITED TO HAVANA AND ANKARA, RESPECTIVELY, ADDING THAT THEY WILL MAKE VISITS TO PRESENT THEIR CREDENTIALS "AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME."

3. MFA OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF OPENING EMBASSIES IN THE RESPECTIVE CAPITALS HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED AT ALL.

4. ASKED IF ANY ADVERSE REACTIONS WERE ANTICIPATED FROM IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA, OR OTHER COUNTRIES CONCERNED ABOUT CUBAN MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, THE MFA OFFICER SAID THAT THE SITUATION IN THE HORN HAD NOT EVEN BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. NEITHER THE REACTIVATION OF RELATIONS NOR ITS TIMING HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH ANY OTHER EVENT OR COUNTRY, AND NO ADVERSE REACTIONS WERE EXPECTED.

5. COMMENT: THE BASIC INFORMATION IN THE FIRST TWO PARAS SEEMS SOLID, BUT THE STATEMENTS REPORTED IN PARAS 3 AND 4 PROBABLY ARE EITHER DISINGENUOUS OR BASED ON LACK OF INFORMATION. WE DOUBT THAT SUCH A DECISION WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN WITHOUT HIGH-LEVEL CONSIDERATION OF ITS EFFECTS.
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